

Message Text

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50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 OMB-01 /059 W

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P R 201705Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1683

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 2290

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML

SUBJ: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE

1. SUMMARY: IN WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE KISSIMA DOUKARA, FOLLOWING RETURN OF PRESIDENT TRAORE LAST NIGHT, CDO LEARNED THAT MALIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE SOME STEPS WHICH SHOULD BE REGARDED AS CONCILIATORY.

WRV IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, THE SUBJECT OF MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE WAS MENTIONED AND DOUKARA MADE QUITE A POINT OF THE IRRATIONALITY OF TWO VERY POOR COUNTRIES WITH VERY SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS EXPENDING THEIR ENERGIES AND RESOURCES ON A MILITARY CONFRONTATION. DOUKARA SAID HE HAD GIVEN CAREFUL INSTRUCTIONS IN RECENT MONTHS THAT MILITARY PATROLS SHOULD STAY SUFFICIENTLY FAR FROM THE CONTEST AREAS TO AVOID POSSIBILITY OF ACCIDENTIAL CONTACT WITH UPPER VOLTAN FORCES. HE THEN WENT ON TO REPORT THAT THE PRESIDENT

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HAD TOLD HIM UPON HIS RETURN EARLIER IN THE EVENING

THAT THE MEDIATION COMMISSION WAS BEING CONTINUED AND WOULD RECEIVE THE DOCUMENTS WHICH EXPLAIN THE MALIAN POSITION. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO RELEASE TODAY THE TWO PRISONERS TAKEN IN THE DECEMBER SKIRMISH AS WELL AS THE VEHICLES WHICH HAD BEEN CAPTURED AT THAT TIME. AS FAR AS THE 12 PRISONERS TAKEN ON JUNE 3 AND THEIR VEHICLES, DOUKARA SAID THAT WHEN THE WOUNDED HAD BEEN PROPERLY TREATED MEDICALLY THEY COULD BE RELEASED TOO.

3. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION GIVEN WAS THAT TEMPERS HAD SUBSTANTIALLY COOLED (ALTHOUGH DOUKARA SUGGESTED IT WAS PROBABLY A GOOD THING HE WAS NOT IN THE COUNTRY AT THE TIME OF THE JUNE 3 SKIRMISH) AND THAT THROUGH THE DEVICE OF THE MEDIATION COMMISSION A FACE-SAVING SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND TO PERMIT THE CONFLICT TO BE FORMALLY LAIN TO REST.
MASTERS

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